

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY ARA?CEN:WMATTHEWS:JN
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN

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O 080222Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL BELIZE NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE
/USCINSCO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: PBOR, BH, UK

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: UK STATEMENT ON BELIZE

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON BELIZE ISSUED BY UK FOREIGN
OFFICE JULY 7.

2. BEGIN TEXT: RECENT STATEMENTS BY GUATEMALAN LEADERS
AND MOVES BY THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES, NOTABLY THE
CALL-UP OF RESERVISTS AND A MAJOR DEPLOYMENT OF THEIR
REGULAR TROOPS ON THE BORDER WITH BELIZE, HAVE GIVEN
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT
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THE SECURITY OF BELIZE.

BELIZE IS A BRITISH DEPENDENCY WITH INTERNAL SELF-
GOVERNMENT WHOSE DEFENCE AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACK IS THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. FACED WITH
THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH THE FULL
SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE, HAS BEEN OBLIGED

TO STRENGTHEN THE BRITISH GARRISON, WHICH HAS A PURELY
DEFENSIVE ROLE WITH ADDITIONAL INFANTRY AND A DETACHMENT
OF RAF HARRIERS. HM SHIPS HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO THE
AREA. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE ONLY TAKEN THIS STEP
MOST RELUCTANTLY. THESE ADDITIONAL FORCES WILL BE

WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THEIR
PRESENCE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE
TERRITORY. THE PRESENT ACTION IN NO WAY ALTERS OUR
FIRM RESOLVE TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO OUR
DIFFERENCES OVER BELIZE BY MEANS OF A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT WITH GUATEMALA. OUR OBJECTIVE REMAINS
TO BRING BELIZE TO FULL AND SECURE INDEPENDENCE
WHILE TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF GUATEMALA'S LEGITIMATE
CONCERN AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS
RESOLUTIONS. WE HAVE INFORMED THE GUATEMALAN
GOVERNMENT OF THIS REINFORCEMENT AND REASSURED THEM
OF OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE158590
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770242-0548
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770777/aaaacora.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18a98a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1919576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK STATEMENT ON BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK
To: BELIZE GUATEMALA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18a98a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009